

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of a steering column apparatus for a ~~car~~ vehicle in which a steering column is supported and secured on the ~~car~~ vehicle body through a bracket, ~~said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~forming in advance said bracket of~~ ~~in advance, said~~  
~~bracket including a plurality of divided individual~~  
~~components, and connecting these plurality of divided~~  
~~components connected by caulking, at the time of assembling,~~  
~~so as to assemble said bracket~~

wherein said individual components include:

a U-shaped main body component which integrally  
comprises two side portions each having an insertion  
hole and extended in parallel to an axis of said  
steering column, a connecting portion connecting said  
side portions, and flange portions to be attached to  
the vehicle body, the flange portions having caulking  
recesses and extending, respectively, along sides of  
said steering column from said side portions, and

two separate components respectively having integrally first plate portions to be opposed to said flange portions of the main body component and provided with insertion projections to be connected to said respective insertion holes and second plate portions to be opposed to said side portions of the main body component and provided with caulking projections to be connected to said respective caulking recesses; wherein said insertion holes of said side portions and said insertion projections of said first plate portions are respectively connected to each other, and said caulking recesses of said flange portions and said caulking projections of said second plate portions are respectively connected to each other, and wherein shock absorbing plate members are respectively disposed between said side portions of the main body component and said two separate components, an end of each shock absorbing plate member being secured to the vehicle body and extended along said side portions of the main body component and then bent and folded back along said first plate portions of said separate components.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of a steering column apparatus for a ~~car~~vehicle in which a column-side bracket attached to a steering column is brought into pressure contact with a body-side bracket attached ~~ent to~~ to the body of the ~~car~~to be retained~~vehicle~~, characterized in that:

    said column-side bracket is comprised of divided individual components including a main body portion which consists of component having a column supporting portion directly in contact with and secured to a lower part of the steering column and secured to said lower part and two side plate portions integrally formed with said column supporting portion and respectively in pressure contact with the inner surfaces of the both two side plate portions of said body-side bracket, the side plate portions of said main body component each being formed at an end thereof with a caulking recess, and said individual components further including a fit plate portion which is component having ends each formed with a caulking projection to be engaged with a corresponding one of said caulking recesses formed separately from said main body portion for coupling said side plate portions of said main body portion component to each other; and

said caulking recesses of the said main body portion component and said caulking projections of the said fit plate portion component are respectively connected to each other by caulking at the time of assembling, thereby assembling the during assembly of said column-side bracket.

4. (Currently Amended) A steering column apparatus for a car vehicle comprising a body-side bracket attached to the body of the car vehicle for retaining a column-side bracket attached to the steering column by bringing the column-side bracket into pressure contact with two side plate portions of said body-side bracket extending in parallel to the an axis of the steering column with the steering column passing therebetween, characterized in that:

said column-side bracket is comprised of individual components including a main body portion which consists of component having a column supporting portion directly in contact with and secured to a lower part of the steering column and secured to said lower part and two side plate portions integrally formed with said column supporting portion and respectively in pressure contact with the inner surfaces of the both said side plate portions of said body-side bracket, the side plate portions of said main body component each being formed at an end thereof with a

caulking recess, and said individual components further including a fit plate portion which is formed component having ends each formed with a caulking projection to be engaged with a corresponding one of said caulking recesses separately from said main body portion for coupling said side plate portions of said main body portion component to each other; and

said caulking recesses of the said main body portion component and said caulking projections of the said fit plate portion component are respectively connected to each other by caulking.

5. (Canceled)